PROMOTIONS—CONSIDERATION FOR

26. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government does give due consideration to seniority in making promotions;

(*b*) why is it that the claims of such senior men as Messrs. C. Sankara Menon, V. C. Krishna Menon and S. Govinda Menon (District Munsiffs) have been overlooked;

(*c*) whether the transfer of a District Judge as Diwan Peishkar and then as Excise Commissioner is conducive either to the efficiency of the Departments concerned or to the happiness and contentment of the officers concerned;

(*d*) whether any special qualifications are necessary for appointment as Tahsildar;

(*e*) whether Government considers that an Advocate has all the qualifications for appointment as Tahsildars;

(*f*) are clerks and head clerks in courts recruited directly from the bar, if so, why;

(*g*) whether lawyers have not been appointed to almost all departments in the State ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The claims of these officers have not been overlooked.

(*c*) In the exigencies of service, such transfers become unavoidable sometimes.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Yes, in some cases Rules do not prohibit such direct recruitment.

(*g*) No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : May I know, Sir, what are the qualifications for appointment as Tahsildar. It is stated that qualifications are necessary.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : Revenue Test, Account Test and if they are to be appointed as Tahsildar, they should undergo Survey Training.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)* : May I know whether in the matter of the appointment of the Tahsildars now, the requirements of the Standing Orders have been complied with.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : They were appointed in the exigencies of scrvice.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)* : I want to know whether as a matter of fact the requirements of the Standing Orders have been complied with in the recent appointment of the Tahsildars ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : Some of the Tahsildars recently appointed were in connection with the food question and the food production survey and they are not people who have undergone Survey training.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : Is that the only one qualification for the post of a Tahsildar ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : Account Test, I am sure, all of them would have passed.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : May I know whether in the case of the appointment of an Hon'ble Member of this House—I am referring to no less a person than the Hon'ble Member for Talappalli Ezhuvas—in the case of direct recruitment, these qualifications were kept in view ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : In the case of Mr. Viswambharan, in one or two cases, they might not have passed the tests. I was speaking of the clerks who were appointed as Tahsildars.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : I was asking, Sir, about the appointment of Tahsildars recently made keeping in mind amongst one of them my friend Mr. Viswambharan, whether in such appointments the requirements of the Standing Orders have been respected ; and I take that the answer is "no".

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : He has not passed the tests.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : May I know why such an appointment was made ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : As was explained in this very question, sometimes it is very necessary to have people directly recruited from outside to important posts.

Mr. President : I shall explain. The point is this. Due to the food production drive, the grain purchasing scheme and the schemes connected with the food problem, we have to

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increase the number of officers and we have not got in the State sufficient persons with the necessary training. The question of improving the quantity and quality of revenue training is being considered, particularly the survey training of officers.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : Don't you appoint the staff of the Secretariat as Tahsildars?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : Yes. We have sent some.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : Are there not many hands who were doing faithful service and who have passed all these tests?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: About 3 or 4 of them have been sent. It is not always possible to send clerks from the Secretariat alone.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : Do the Government think that the practice as advocate will qualify a man for appointment as Tahsildar.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: In the food production, of course, part of the work has already been done by the Tahsildars, and the other work to be done is leasing of lands and there a little knowledge of the law is necessary.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Do you think that they should be given survey training?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: They can be given training. After all, it is not a very difficult thing to do. Two or three months' training can easily be arranged. But a few months after the appointment he was appointed in the Food Production Department and he was sent to buy rice. The work there now is mainly to take the documents from the lessees of the poramboke lands; and after all, for that purpose a great deal of survey training is not necessary. That portion of the work which requires training is almost finished. The work did not suffer on account of this recruitment.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether it was due to sheer want of properly qualified hands at the time of the appointment of the gentleman mentioned that this particular appointment was made? The question is, was it because of the dearth of qualified hands?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: We cannot answer "yes or no" to a question like that. We have to answer the question in a rather wide aspect. We cann't send out all our clerks in the Secretariat all on a sudden. That will upset the work. Also we cannot take away all the senior Managers of the Heads of Departments all on a sudden. We have always so-to-say, to keep the balance in these matters. We will always take some people so-to-say who know the routine of official work and who have passed the tests and things like that. At the same time it will also be useful, considering the appointment to which the persons are best suited, to select people from outside; and when persons are selected from outside, we always bear in mind the claim of the backward communities. Therefore, we can't answer a simple "yes or no" to a question like this. Only an explanatory answer can be given to a question like this.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: With reference to answer to sub-division (*b*) may I know whether the present Superintendent of Registration and Anchal was the Manager while Mr. C. Sankara Menon was the Registrar of the High Court?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Yes.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: How do the Government dare to answer question (*b*) that "the claims of these officers have not been overlooked".

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The point was this. Mr. Sankara Menon was a Judicial Officer and he was working in the High Court as Registrar. Mr. Raghavan, I think, on communal considerations was selected and was given promotion in another line. He was appointed as Superintendent of Stamps, and then as the senior Deputy Secretary and when the post of the Registration Superintendent became vacant, he was selected. Considering all these facts, he was sent out by appointing him as the Registration Superintendent. So the claims of these officers were not overlooked.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Have not junior Munsiffs, far junior to Messrs. Sankara Menon and Krishna Menon, been promoted over their heads.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: I want notice.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: May I know whether it was not the practice here to promote seniormost Munsiffs as Registration Superintendent and District Magistrate?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Mr. Raghavan who was the Deputy Secretary went out as Registration Superintendent.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : May I know Sir, for how long Mr. Sankara Menon has been drawing the maximum pay as District Munsiff?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

Mr. President: I may inform the House that persons to higher posts are selected in the order of seniority.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* In view of the observation made by the Hon'ble Diwan President, may I know whether in the case of the appointments of persons over the heads of these officers their claims have not been overlooked. Three Gentlemen's names have been given. May I know whether they were not receiving the maximum of their grades long long ago after which many a junior had been promoted over their heads thereby causing discontent amongst the services, a bad feeling amongst the services. We want to rectify these things and hence this question, Sir.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I want notice for that because I did not have the information before.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I would humbly request the Chair to give the necessary orders to the Government to be prepared for supplementary questions in all the ramifications of questions.

Mr. President: I may inform Hon'ble Members that it is quite impossible for any human being to do it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Our wish is placed before the Chair and if this is the ruling, we are helpless.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Do the Government think that these officers are not efficient men?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Government have never said anything like that, and they will never say also.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know whether it is not possible to promote the seniormost Munsiff as District Magistrate?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* There is no definite practice here. It is sometimes so and sometimes otherwise.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know when it ceased to be otherwise.

Mr. President: There is no such rule or order to my knowledge.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether in the case of the appointment of the Superintendent of Registration it was not always a case of the seniormost Munsiffs being promoted as Superintendent of Registration.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The Hon'ble Member is referring to an incident which took place 15 years ago. I cannot answer a question like that.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I will put questions Sir, in such a way that information will be supplied by Government.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know it is not the case that the seniormost District Munsiff had been appointed as District Magistrate during the last 15 years?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* With reference to answer to sub-division (c) what were the exigencies of service that necessitated the appointment of one of the best District Judges that we had first as Diwan Peishkar and after working there for a few months when he had picked up the work of that line for his being drafted as Excise Commissioner. Probably he was a very good person for all departments. The answer given is that in the exigencies of service such transfers become unavoidable sometimes. It looks like a depromotion. It is a painful state of affairs. I would like to bring to your notice Sir, that although by importation he was got down here as one of the Judges of the High Court. Then he came down, came down and came down. He is helpless. Of course, he has brought seven lakhs of rupees by this trick and tact in the new office he holds.

Mr. President: I must remind the Hon'ble Members that it is question time.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* What was the exigency that caused the drifting of this gentleman from place to place?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Mr. Lonappan was promoted as Diwan Peishkar. Then the permanent Diwan Peishkar, Mr. Prabhu was the Commissioner of Civil Supplies. Later he was reverted and Mr. Lonappan who was acting as Diwan Peishkar was appointed as Excise Commissioner. That was what happened. These are the circumstances that brought about these transfers.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* We are not going to be white washed by this most vague expression, the expression "Exigencies of service". I therefore ask what was

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the exigency of service that required this transfer? These are facts known to us. Why was that appointment made is the question?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Is not Mr. Lonappan a rolling stone who has gathered no moss?

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: May I know whether Mr. C. Sankara Menon was the District Magistrate for some time.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Yes. He was the District Magistrate.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE TO VILLAGE COURT JUDGES

27. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Will Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether representations have been made to Government to grant travelling allowance to Village Court Judges;

(*b*) whether Government will grant at least a rupee per sitting as travelling allowance to Village Court Judges?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government will take up the question for consideration after watching the working of the Courts for some time.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Is it on account of the appreciation of the work that they are given a travelling allowance?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Personally I am trying to do without it.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: What is the justification in asking them to do work spending money out of their pockets.

Mr. President: I may inform that in the neighbouring administration they are not giving this travelling allowance.

BEGGAR PROBLEM—RELIEF OF

28. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Will Government be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken for beggar relief?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: Steps are being taken in the matter.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE SEVERAL GRADES FROM THE SEVERAL COMMUNITIES IN 1117—PARTICULARS OF

29. Mr. K. R. Achyutan *(Ezhuvas-Trichur)*: Will Government be pleased to supplement the information contained in the communal-war table of Government servants published as Appendix VI on the last page of the Administration Report of Cochin for 1117 by furnishing a list containing the total number of appointments made in the various grades of Government service from the several communities in the State during the year 1117?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: The process of collecting the information involves much labour and stationery. Copies of the Administration reports for the years 1116 and 1117 are placed on the Council Table. From the statements published the member can get a general idea on the point.

Mr. K. R. Achuthan *(Ezhuvas-Trichur)*: Cannot the information be furnished?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: If you take the appointments and make a comparision between the appointments made in 1116 and 1117 you can get the information.

Mr. K. S. Panicker *(Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram)*: How can we deduct it?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: We have got the information, so many Nayars in 1116 and so many Nayars in 1117. Subtract one from the other. Then you will get the information. Similarly also with regard to your community. That is the way to do it. I mean to say we were not in the habit of publishing anything before. Now we will try to give you as much information as possible and we are giving you all that is possible.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഓരോ സമുദായങ്ങളുടേയും കണക്കു പ്രത്യേകം പ്രത്യേകം അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേഷൻ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

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